

CAMP REYNOLDS, BAND MASTER'S QUARTERS
(Building No. 55)
Angel Island State Park
Angel Island
Marin County
California

HABS CA-1841-E
CA-1841-E

PHOTOGRAPHS

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FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAMP REYNOLDS, BAND MASTER'S QUARTERS (Fort McDowell - West Garrison, Building No. 55)

HABS No. CA-1841-E

Location: Angel Island, Marin County, California

Present Owner: State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

Present Occupant: Angel Island State Park

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Camp Reynolds was established on Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. In 1866 Camp Reynolds became the army's general depot for receiving and distributing new recruits in the West. From the 1860s through the 1880s a village of wood frame buildings including officers' quarters, barracks, and various support structures was constructed and expanded. Now part of Angel Island State Park, Camp Reynolds features a remarkable collection of surviving late-nineteenth-century officers' quarters.

This officer's quarters dates to the expansion of Camp Reynolds in the post-Civil-War period. This building's idiosyncratic form represents the ad hoc nature of construction and repair at Angel Island and other isolated military installations. Located close to the wharf location and away from officer's row, this structure was used by lower ranking officers, including the band master during the late nineteenth century. During the early twentieth century the building was used by bachelor officers, creating a space for them separate from the families on officers' row but still distinct from the enlisted men. Construction of more modern officers' quarters at the East Garrison in the mid-1910s and years of hard use further reduced the status of this structure to quarters for non-commissioned officers in 1931.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1870
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original owner: U. S. Army, c. 1870-1948
Subsequent owners: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1948-63
California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1963 - present
4. Builder: constructed and altered by soldiers stationed at Camp Reynolds/Fort McDowell

5. Original plans and construction:

Original plans and information regarding construction of the Band Master's Quarters have not been located. Prior to 1882, the use and form of this building is unclear. A report by Robert Wood quotes an 1869 description of a band master's quarters, but does not conclusively link that description with the current building.¹ Another early mention of a "band leader's quarters" appears in a February 1877 written description of Angel Island - "Band leader's quarters (25x50'), one story, containing four rooms; ordnance store-house in the same building."² However a January 1877 site plan of Camp Reynolds provides conflicting information (Figure 1). On this plan a structure in the current location of the Building No. 55 with a similar footprint is labeled as the Commissary Sergeant's Quarters.³ No band master's quarters is indicated, but a band quarters is shown in close proximity to an ordnance storehouse. The February 1877 description lists the Commissary Sergeant's Quarters as a one and a half story structure, 25x35', and four rooms including attics.

Two sources from 1879 provide additional information. A rendering depicting Camp Reynolds on May 20, 1879 shows a structure similar to the current Building No. 55 in the foreground.⁴ An inspection report submitted in June 1879 does not mention a band master's quarters, but describes the Commissary Sergeant's Quarters as an one and a half

¹Wood also discusses Building No. 55 as an enlisted men's quarters, but other evidence indicates the structure was always officially listed as an officers' or noncommissioned officers' quarters. Robert M. Wood. "Preliminary Recommendation for the Interior Restoration of the Buildings Remaining on West Garrison," typescript (March 1984), Angel Island State Park files, 44-45.

²NARA, Cartographic, RG 77, Real Estate Division, Drawing #1 with 1877 printed description attached.

³Camp Reynolds site plan, January 1877, NARA, Cartographic, RG 77, Fortification File, drawer 154, sheet 44-8.

⁴"Angel Island, San Francisco Bay, 20 May 1879," copy of Society of California Pioneers image (neg. 20199) in Angel Island State Park files.

story structure built in 1870, twenty-five by thirty-five feet, comprised of five rooms.⁵

In April 1880, the *Angel Island Guide* mentions the “residence of Chief Musician G. G. Cillarries, 8th Infantry Band” located to the left of the wharf.⁶ Then in 1882 a structure is labeled as “band leader’s” in a sketch site plan that accompanied an inspection report. It appears on the plan as a mainly rectangular structure with a porch on the southwest end and two stepped extensions on the northwest elevation (same footprint as the Commissary Sergeant’s Quarters in 1877). In the report the building is described as having three rooms and a kitchen.⁷ In 1885 the Band Leader’s Quarters was described as one story, three rooms, sixteen by thirty-four feet, and needing repairs to its enclosed piazza.⁸

6. Alterations and additions:

Early photographs of Camp Reynolds showing Building No. 55 do not have precise dates, but a c. 1890 image shows an one story building with an enclosed porch on the southwest gable end and two small extensions on the northwest elevation. A shed roof extension, like the kitchen of the current structure, is visible at the northeast gable end.⁹ The former exterior wall is still clearly visible on the southwest side of this room. Another c. 1900 image depicts additional changes to the form of this building. The southwest gable end porch is no longer enclosed and a wing was added extending from the northwest corner of the earlier section. The other northwest extensions are removed and a porch added to this area.¹⁰ The L-shaped form evident here is closer to the current extant structure. The porch was probably extended across the southeast elevation, including the shed roof kitchen addition, at this time. By 1893 this building was referred to simply as an officers’ quarters and perhaps this addition of the wing and porches reflected enhanced status.¹¹

⁵Inspection Report to Quartermaster General (30 June 1879), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 4

⁶*Angel Island Guide*, (April 1880), 1, copy in Angel Island State Park files.

⁷Report of the Condition of Public Buildings at Angel Island, CA (31 March 1882), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37.

⁸Report of the Annual Inspection of Public Buildings at Angel Island, CA (31 March 1885), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37.

⁹NARA, Still Picture, 111-SC, Box 623, Photograph 82440.

¹⁰NARA, Still Picture, U.S. Military Posts of the Late Nineteenth Century, Box 3, Folder 1, Angel Island, Photo 92-F-3-1 “General View of Post.”

¹¹“Angel Island, California,” site plan, (April 1893), NARA, RG 112, Entry 41, Box 2.

A c. 1929 plan also illustrates this iteration of the building (Figure 2).¹² Porches extend along the southeast elevation and part of the southwest and northwest elevations. The older section of the building included, from southwest to northeast, a bedroom, entrance hall, dining room, and kitchen (located in the shed roof addition with its own exterior door). The wing added to the northwest included a two bedrooms, a bathroom and the back of the entrance hall. During the early twentieth century Building No. 55 was used as an officers' quarters and related purposes. For example, in 1909 the building housed one lieutenant and served as a mess hall for bachelor officers.¹³ Three bedrooms noted on the c. 1929 plan may indicate single room living quarters given to lower ranking bachelor officers. An April 1929 photograph of Building No. 55 indicates that the southeast elevation has not changed since that time.¹⁴

The northwest elevation has been altered since c. 1929 by the removal of the porch and shed roof extensions to the inside of the L-shaped plan. These changes likely occurred before the Army decommissioned Fort McDowell in 1946.

B. Historical Context:

Camp Reynolds was established on the west side of Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. With the reorganization of the army at the end of the Civil War, the future of Camp Reynolds was initially in doubt. Angel Island maintained some coastal defense duties, but then in 1866 its primary purpose became processing recruits assigned to the Western plains forts. Military historian Edward Coffman describes the role of frontier constabulary as the primary mission of the late-nineteenth-century peacetime army. In 1870, 23,000 men or sixty-two percent of the regular army was assigned to the West, including the Pacific coast posts.¹⁵

At the end of 1869 and during 1870, a number of new buildings were added to expand the facilities at Camp Reynolds, including a commissary sergeant's quarters, a double officers' quarters, and a hospital. The band leader's quarters was probably originally the commissary sergeant's quarters. This building's idiosyncratic form represents the ad hoc nature of construction and repair at Angel Island and other isolated military installations.

¹²Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 55, (includes c. 1929 plan) NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4. This structure changed from No. 13 to No. 55 on October 9, 1916 when the current numbering system was put in place.

¹³Designation and Capacity of Buildings, etc., at Fort McDowell, Cal. (February 1909), NARA, RG 92, Entry 89, Box 4891, File #216218.

¹⁴Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 55, (includes April 1929 photograph) NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

¹⁵Coffman, 254.

Located close to wharf and away from officer's row, this structure was used by lower ranking officers including the band master during the late nineteenth century. During the early twentieth century the building was used by bachelor officers, creating a space for them separate from the families on officers' row but still distinct from the enlisted men. From 1931 until the base was decommissioned in 1946, this quarters housed non-commissioned officers.¹⁶

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: The Band Master's Quarters is a good surviving example of more modest Army quarters built in an ad hoc manner in the late nineteenth century. Original portions of the building are still extant and the current form dates to the early twentieth century.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. This officer's quarters has been vandalized and there is pervasive damage to the walls, floors and ceilings. Currently the structure is boarded up to prevent further damage, but coast erosion is steadily undermining its site.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 45 feet, 6 1/4 inches by 37 feet, 9 inches
2. Foundations: The foundation was not accessible but was described in a 1947 War Assets Administration inventory as a mud sill.¹⁷ The space between piers is filled with horizontal wood weatherboards. The foundation is higher on the southwest side of the structure because the site slopes down to the waterfront.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are sheathed with wood clapboards in the main wings and wider wood weatherboards on the shed roof additions, all currently painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: This structure has a light wood frame with a common rafter or simple truss roof. Historic plans indicate the use of two

¹⁶John A. Hussey. "Fort McDowell - Report on Application for an Historical Monument," Prepared for War Assets Administration (April 1949), typescript in Angel Island Park files, 27.

¹⁷War Assets Administration, "W-Calif-91, Fort McDowell - Angel Island," (7 August 1947), NARA - San Bruno, RG 270, Box 65.

by six inch joists and rafters.¹⁸

5. Porches, stoops: A shed-roof porch is located across the southeast elevation and wraps around the southwest gable end of the main wing. The porch has thin supporting columns with chamfered corners and some decorative brackets remaining. These decorative details are consistent with the possible 1890s construction date for the porch. A 1929 photograph indicates a large X-pattern porch balustrade and a small stair platform leading to the porch in front of the entrance hall door.¹⁹
6. Chimneys: There are no extant internal brick chimneys. Historic photographs show stove pipes at the kitchen addition and the connecting wall between the main wing and the added wing.
7. Openings:
- a. Doorways and doors: This structure has five exterior doorways -- two in the main southeast elevation, one at the southwest gable end, one at the northwest elevation of the kitchen addition, and one from the northeast side of a later utility room on the northwest elevation. All of these openings have plain, flat frames. Only two exterior doors are extant. The southeast elevation door into the entrance hall is glazed and divided into six unequal lights on the top half with two panels at the bottom. The 1929 photograph indicates that the other southeast elevation door into the kitchen was also glazed. The door at the northwest elevation of the kitchen addition is a recessed panel wood door with two tall vertical rectangles over two smaller ones.
- b. Windows: All of the window openings have plain, flat frames with a thin sill. The typical window is a six over six double hung sash. The utility room on the northwest elevation has twelve-light casements. There are two other casement windows - one on the northeast and one on the northwest elevation of the rear wing. There is a bay window on the

¹⁸Historical Record of Buildings, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

¹⁹Historical Record of Buildings, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

southeast elevation with three openings over recessed panels. The two thin flanking openings are each four lights high.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering:

The main roof form is L-shaped cross gable, with two shed roof extensions on the northeast elevation and one on the northwest. The kitchen extension on the northeast elevation has a false parapet on its southeast edge. The roof is covered with sheets of tar paper that replaced wood shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves:

Most of this structure has simple closed eaves. The southwest and northeast gable ends have box cornices. There are no gutters.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

See measured drawings HABS No. CA-1841-E for complete plans of the Band Master's Quarters. There is no basement; the attic was not accessible but windows in the gable ends of the original wing suggest it may have once been usable space. The current arrangement features an entrance hall between two rooms with the kitchen next to the easternmost room. The entrance hall continues to the back directly to a bathroom. The rear wing contains the two additional rooms next to the rear of the entrance hall and the bathroom. The back room is accessible only through the bathroom or the adjacent room. Northeast of the rear entrance hall is the utility room.

2. Stairways:

This one-story structure has no interior stairways.

3. Flooring:

This house has tongue and groove wood flooring of uniform width throughout. The floorboards are oriented east to west in the entrance hall and front two rooms. The floorboards are laid north to south in two rear wing rooms. Linoleum was installed over the wood floor in the kitchen, bathroom area, and utility room.

4. Wall and ceiling finish:

This structure has a variety of wall and ceiling finishes. The rooms along the southwest side of the building have plaster on lath walls and ceilings, except for the inside of

the bay window in the front room which is wood. The kitchen has exterior clapboards on the southwest wall and wider horizontal wood sheathing on the other walls. The rest of the rooms have beaded wood paneling on the walls and ceilings, including the sloped ceilings in the kitchen and bathroom. The wood paneling is covered by fiberboard in the bathroom and rear entrance hall. There are plain, wide baseboards throughout the house. The three rooms on the southeast side (excluding the kitchen) have picture molding; two of these (the entrance hall and former dining room to the northeast) have crown molding also.

5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The typical interior door in this structure is a recessed panel wood door with two tall vertical rectangles over two smaller ones. Plain, flat door frames surround most of the interior openings. Also there is progressively simpler applied moldings in the three rooms on the southwest side of the structure.
 - b. Windows: Plain, flat door frames surround most of the interior openings. Also there is progressively simpler applied moldings in the three rooms on the southwest side of the structure.
6. Decorative features: There are built-in beaded wood cabinets in the former dining room, rear entrance hall, and two northwest wing rooms.
7. Hardware: Damage to the windows and doors has removed most of the historic hardware.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, ventilation: Heat was provided by coal-burning stoves. There is no evidence of an updated central heating system.
 - b. Lighting: Army records show that electric wiring and light fixtures were installed in 1918.²⁰

²⁰Historical Record of Buildings, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

- c. Plumbing: Only some pipes and the remnants of a toilet are extant in each bathroom. A thirty-gallon hot water tank was installed in 1927. Prior to that time hot water was obtained from a boiler attached to the cooking range.²¹

There is a wall mounted porcelain sink with a drainboard in the kitchen. The utility room also has a sink.

- D. Site:
1. Historic landscape design: This structure is informally sited on the edge of the bluff leading down to the bay shoreline. Historically a small area around the building was surrounded by a picket fence.
 2. Outbuildings: Historic photographs indicate a number of wood frame outbuildings northwest of Building No. 55 within its fence. None of these structures survives.

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: See notes for references to architectural drawings and sketches.
- B. Early Views: Several late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs including Building No. 55 are available in the Angel Island State Park files or the National Archives. The earliest seems to be from the 1880s. See notes for specific references to early photographic views.

- C. Bibliography:
See notes for a listing of relevant archival materials from Record Groups 92, 77, and 112 at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland.

Angel Island Guide, (April 1880), copy in Angel Island State Park files.

Coffman, Edward M. *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Hoagland, Alison K. "Village Constructions: U.S. Army Forts on the Plains, 1848-1890," *Winterthur Portfolio* 34:4 (Winter 1999): 215-237.

²¹Ibid.

Soennichsen, John *Miwoks to Missiles: A History of Angel Island*. Tiburon, CA: Angel Island Association, 2001.

Wood, Robert M. "Preliminary Recommendation for the Interior Restoration of the Buildings Remaining on West Garrison," typescript, Angel Island State Park files.

IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Camp Reynolds was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS, Paul Dolinsky, Chief) (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, HABS/HAER/HALS Division, E. Blaine Cliver, Chief) during summer and fall 2002. The project was sponsored by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rusty Areias, Director; and by Angel Island State Park, Nick Franco, Superintendent. Field recording and measured drawings were completed by Mark Schara, HABS Architect and Project Supervisor; HABS Architect Kathy Falwell; and Architects Paul Davidson (Pratt Institute) and Jonathan Eggert (University of Michigan). HABS Historian Lisa Pfueller Davidson served as project historian. HABS Photographer James Rosenthal completed large format photographs during fall 2002. Assistance was provided by the Staff of Angel Island State Park and Marin District Historian Marianne Hurley. See related documentation, HABS No. CA-2721, Fort McDowell, for information about the East Garrison portion of the island.

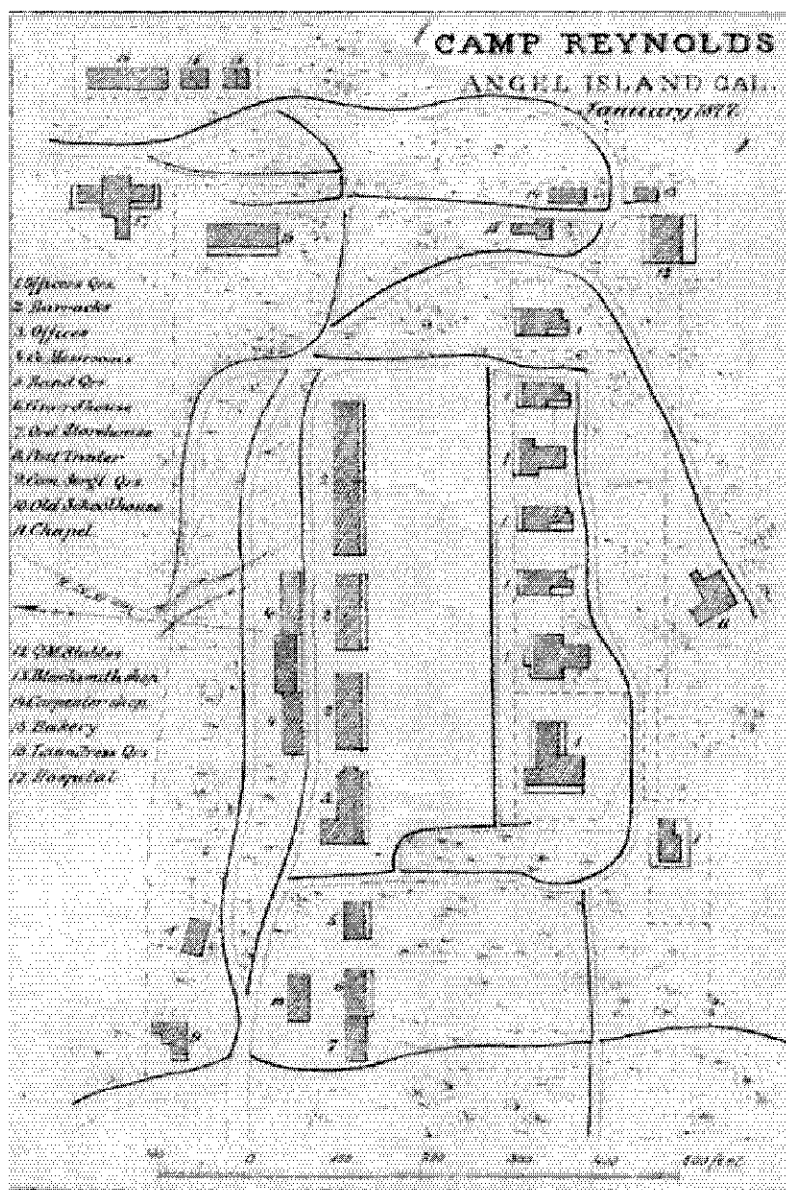


Figure 1: Camp Reynolds Site Plan, January 1877
Source: National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Branch,
RG 77, Fortification File, drawer 154, sheet 44-8.

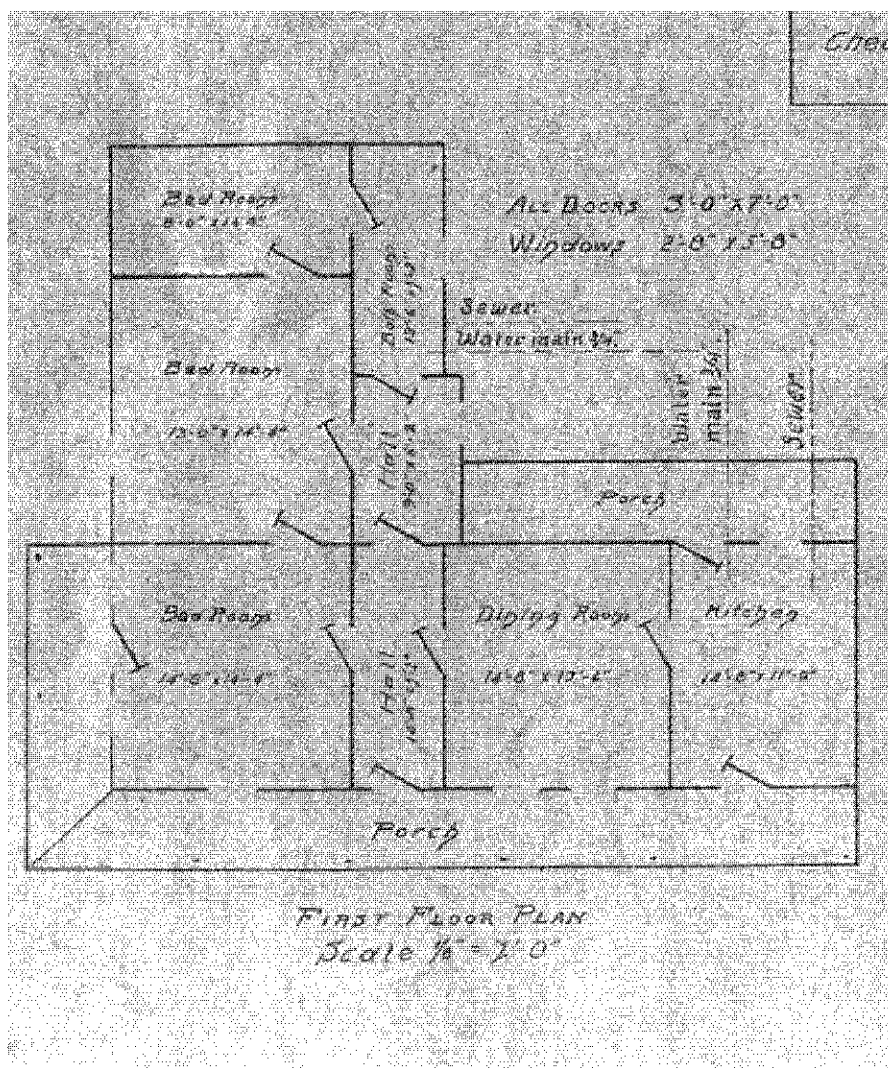


Figure 2: Former Band Master's Quarters, Plan, c. 1929

Source: Historical Record of Public Buildings, Building No. 55,
National Archives, RG 77 - Office of the Army Corps of Engineers, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4